

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.-66. (Cancelled)

67. (New) A system comprising:

one or more distribution servers used to install client software on a plurality of client computers and to subsequently use the client software to perform tasks later assigned to the one or more of the client computers by at least one of the distribution servers;

at least one computer program operative on the one or more distribution servers to communicate with a plurality of client computers to initiate an installation of client software on the client computers, wherein the installation on one of the plurality of client computer comprises:

- i) distributing a client software component installation file to the client computer;
- ii) distributing a client service installation file to the client computer; and
- iii) from at least one of the distribution servers, remotely causing the client software component installation file and the client service installation file to be used to install a client software component and a client service, respectively, wherein the client software component and the client service are associated with one another when installed on the client computer, and wherein the client software component and the client service are subsequently used by the client computer to perform at least in part one or more tasks assigned to the client computer by at least one of the distribution servers; and wherein the one or more distribution servers including one or more distribution computer programs are operative to:

- a) manage a hierarchical list of at least some of the plurality of client computers, wherein the hierarchical list uniquely identifies each of the client computers on the hierarchical list using a computer identification and wherein the hierarchical list is configured to arrange and group the at least some of the plurality of client computers into one or more computer groups;
- b) assign tasks to one or more client computers managed in the hierarchical list, wherein the tasks are assigned to individual ones of the client computers on the hierarchical list based on the computer identification or to groups of computers on the hierarchical list based on the computer groups, wherein the tasks include at least one item selected from the group: a file, a script or a command; and
- c) store the tasks assigned to the client computers in the hierarchical list.

68. (New) The system of claim 67, wherein the client computers having installed thereon the client software component and the client service, the client software component and client service operative on the client computer to:

- a) connect to at least one of the distribution servers;
- b) request one or more scheduled tasks from the at least one distribution servers, the one or more scheduled tasks having been previously assigned to the client computer using the hierarchical list;
- c) receive the one or more scheduled tasks, the one or more scheduled tasks including at least one of a file, a script, or a command; and
- d) process the one or more scheduled tasks.

69. (New) The system of claim 68, wherein to process the one or more scheduled tasks, the client software component and client service are operative on the client computer to:

- a) determine whether the client computer is licensed to execute the tasks;
- b) determine whether a special account is required to execute the tasks;
- c) automatically log into the client computer using the special account when the client computer is licensed to execute the tasks and requires the special account to execute the tasks; and
- d) use the special account to perform the tasks.

70. (New) A method for distributing tasks from a distribution server to a client computer, comprising:

- i) distributing a client software component installation file to the client computer from the distribution server;
- ii) distributing a client service installation file to the client computer from the distribution server; and
- iii) remotely invoking from the distribution server, the client software component installation file and the client service installation file to install a client software component and a client service, respectively,

wherein the client software component and the client service are associated with one another when installed on the client computer, and wherein the client software component and the client service are first installed by the installation on the client computer;

and further comprising:

- a) managing a hierarchical list of at least some of a plurality of client computers, wherein the hierarchical list uniquely identifies each of the client computers on the hierarchical list using a computer identification and wherein the hierarchical list is configured to arrange and group the at least some of the plurality of client computers into one or more computer groups and wherein the client computer is included in the plurality of client computers;

- b) assigning tasks to one or more client computers of the at least some of the plurality of client computers managed in the hierarchical list, wherein the tasks are assigned to individual ones of the client computers on the hierarchical list based on the computer identification or to groups of computers on the hierarchical list based on the computer groups, wherein the tasks include at least one item selected from the group: a file, a script or a command; and
- c) storing the tasks assigned to the client computers in the hierarchical list, wherein at least one of the tasks assigned to one of the client computers is performed at least in part using one or more of the client software component and the client service component installed on the client computers.

71. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein the client computer having installed thereon the client software component and the client service, further comprising:

- a) connecting to the distribution server via the client software component and the client service;
- b) requesting one or more scheduled tasks from the distribution server, the one or more scheduled tasks having been previously assigned to the client computer using the hierarchical list;
- c) receiving the one or more scheduled tasks, the one or more scheduled tasks including at least one of a file, a script, or a command; and
- d) processing the one or more scheduled tasks.

72. (New) The method of claim 71, wherein processing the one or more scheduled tasks further comprises:

- a) determining whether the client computer is licensed to execute the tasks;
- b) determining whether a special account is required to execute the tasks;
- c) automatically logging into the client computer using the special account when the client computer is licensed to execute the tasks and requires the special account to execute the tasks; and
- d) using the special account to perform the tasks.

73. (New) A system comprising:

a client computer; and

a distribution server communicatively coupled to the client computer, wherein the distribution server is configured to:

initiate an installation procedure to:

distribute a client software installation file to the client computer;

and

remotely invoke the client software installation file to produce a client software installation;

and wherein the client computer, upon a successful client software installation, is configured to:

use the client software installation to:

query the distribution server to obtain one or more tasks assigned to the client computer; and

process the one or more tasks assigned to the client computer.

74. (New) The system of claim 73, wherein the client computer is further configured to:

for a particular task of the one or more tasks:

determine whether the particular task is enabled for a particular user of the client computer; and

execute the task when the task is enabled for the particular user of the client computer.

75. (New) The system of claim 73, wherein the client computer is further configured to:

for a particular task of the one or more tasks:

determine whether the client computer is licensed to execute the task; and

execute the task when the client computer is licensed to execute the task.

76. (New) A method comprising:

at a distribution server, initiating an installation procedure, the installation procedure comprising:

distributing a client software installation file to a client computer, the client computer coupled to the distribution server; and

remotely invoking the client software installation file to produce a client software installation; and

at the client computer, upon a successful client software installation, using the client software installation by:

querying the distribution server to obtain one or more tasks assigned to the client computer; and

processing the one or more tasks assigned to the client computer.

77. (New) The method of claim 76, wherein processing the one or more tasks further comprises:

for a particular task of the one or more tasks:

determining whether the particular task is enabled for a particular user of the client computer; and

executing the task when the task is enabled for the particular user of the client computer.

78. (New) The method of claim 76, wherein processing the one or more tasks further comprises:

for a particular task of the one or more tasks:

determining whether the client computer is licensed to execute the task;

and

executing the task when the client computer is licensed to execute the task.